THE WOMAN'S

DREADNOUGHT

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A CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS' CONFERENCE

There is a spirit of genial democracy about the I.L.P. Conference, and though the rank and file are profuse in their friendly cheers for the office bearers, they are not afraid to differ from them. This was clearly evidenced in the course of the opening address of Mr. F. W. Jowett, M.P., who was about to retire from the Chairmanship at the end of the full three years' term. Mr. Jowett's eulogy of President Wilson, and expression of "general agreement" with his foreign policy were coldly received, and sturdy Ben Turner, who rose to move: "Our best thanks to Fred for his good speech to-day," voiced what was obviously the prevailing thought when he said that "Fred" had spoken as a "rather pugnacious pacifist," and that whilst he was always full of grit and determination he was not always right, as some of the points he had put forward that morning had proved. But Ben Turner's speech was very kindly: he did not forget that he was dealing with a comrade who, though he had in this thing fallen a little away from the faith would return to it ere long.

It was a Conscientious Objector's Conference. Many of the delegates were on leave from prison or alternative service, and the outlook of the conscientious objector dominated the entire gathering. James Maxton, of Glasgow, and others were greeted with ovations. The only resolution that really gripped the conference was that of Bermondsey, reaffirming the declaration of last year's conference that "all War is incompatible with Socialist principles." The most popular speech of the debate was made by a very young man, Regan, of Rutherglen, who was obliged "a little doggedly" to parry the Chairman's suggestion that other delegates had a prior claim to second the resolution. He was short of stature, and unknown to many present, but speaking with quiet simplicity he aroused the delegates to an extraordinary height of passionate enthusiasm. He declared that those who opposed the resolution did so because they felt that there was one War in which they could fight—the War to protect their future Socialist commonwealth. But if they were going to fight in that War, they would have to maintain the sequence of Armies and Navies, and the entire organisation of militarism in preparation for that time, and if they refused to help to man the Armies and Navies, their morality would not be "one whit higher than that of the old men of the Tribunals." There were some also, he said, who feared that if they declared themselves opposed to all War they would lose their hold on politics. "But what of that? John Hodge has kept his hold on politics, but he has lost everything else!" Rounds of delighted applause followed, and then burst forth in a spasm of cheering as J. R. Macdonald, M.P., of whom, for his eloquent speech and gallant way, the delegates are so proud, sprang up to speak. Macdonald to support the Bermondsey resolution! This, indeed, was the culmination of their pleasure, for it has always been a fact that their affection for Macdonald has only been abated by his caution. Even so, the enthusiasm subsided, as it became clear that Macdonald was not a supporter of the resolution. He argued that if the Socialists had no remedy but to take action after War was declared: if they could not stop the outbreak of War, they would be hopelessly beaten whatever their subsequent course might be. He cried with passion that if the Bermondsey resolution were worth the paper it was written on we should have another big War. "These clever debaters" who had supported it, why did they not put forward proposals for preventing war? He said that the alternative to the Bermondsey resolution was to set up "direct international relationships between the peoples." Of course, as soon as they had an opportunity the advocates of the resolution protested that this was not an alternative but an auxiliary. Political wisdom was something, said Macdonald, for which the supporters of the resolution cared nothing. It was to be thrust aside as of no importance. But he said: "You can't go to the scoundrels with which one has to deal and say: 'I'm an innocent man; chop my head off, because I want to go to heaven." This resolution gave a maximum opportunity for prejudice and a minimum of usefulness. "Within three hours of its passage in Newcastle it had been misunderstood by men as honest as yourselves." W. C. Anderson, M.P. and R. C. Wallhead joined Macdonald in opposing the resolution, and later Bruce Glasier, who supported it, declared that the "Bermondsey men" on the Executive are in a minority of four to one. Glasier said that the passage of the resolution last year was one of the greatest achievements of the movement. Macdonald had said that the resolution would only come into force after War was declared, but its force would be felt immediately, and he believed that five years after it had been adopted by the International it would prevent War altogether. If the German, Austrian, and French Socialists would really commit themselves to the the resolution he believed that the rulers would think once, twice, and thrice before they dared declare War. But Glasier believed that the greatest effect of the resolution was not that it would prevent War between capitalists, but that it

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PEACE DRAWING NEAR

All over Europe are signs of popular revolt against oppressive rulers and a passionate weariness of War and hardship. Indeed, so remarkable are the symptoms that it is possible that Mr. Lloyd George's visit to the continent is for the purpose of taking part in Peace negotiations.

AUSTRIA.

From Austria came the first visible threat of War in 1914. It is not surprising that from Austria should be made to appear the first visible negotiations for Peace. Let us hope that the process of ending the War will be as swift as the declaration of hostilities was three years ago.

On April 14th the Press announced, via Washington, that Austrian and Bulgarian representatives had endeavoured to approach the Allied diplomats in Switzerland, but that the Allies had refused to hold private conversations. On April 17th the British Press republished an official statement expressing agreement with the Russian Provisional Government's manifesto of April 11th, which repudiated all desire of conquest or domination, and renewed the Peace offer made by the Central Empires on December 12th, 1916. No specific Peace terms were mentioned, but on April 18th the "Daily News" published an interview with Count Czernin, the Austrian Foreign Minister, in which he said that Austria-Hungary is prepared to make Peace at once on the following terms:—

1.—The Dual Monarchy to remain absolutely intact.

2—.No indemnity to be exacted from it.

3.—The Serbian Kingdom to be reconstituted, but under a new dynasty.

He declared that Austria would never surrender Trieste or Trentino to Italy, so that Italian jingoes who desire to possess these territories will oppose Peace negotiations. Popular unrest has long been rife in Austria-Hungary, and the Budapest "Neues Journal" says that at Easter the Hungarian Socialists held a secret conference and declared in favour of following the example of the Russian revolutionaries.

BULGARIA.

There are said to be signs of revolution in Bulgaria in which the Socialists possess considerable strength, having for a brief period commanded a Parliamentary majority in conjunction with other republican anti-War sections.

RUSSIA.

The Peace party is undoubtedly growing in Russia, and it is to counteract the influence of Socialist internationalists that Messrs. Will Thorne and O'Grady and M. Mute have been sent to Petrograd. Sir F. E. Smith's opulent fur coat is curiously symbolic of the mission, and to the emotional Russian people, we think, this will be clear. Conflicting reports of the views of the powerful Council of Workmen's and Socialist Delegates appear from day to day, and statements that the Russian Socialists are endeavouring to open up negotiations with the German Socialists alternate with denials. But there is no doubt that negotiations are being carried on.

GERMANY.

In Germany the Socialists are urging that the Russian Revolution has removed the main obstacle for Peace and are demanding that the German Government shall enter into negotiations with Russia. The idea of revolution is spreading, and now we learn that in Berlin 125,000 workmen are on strike.

AMERICA.

American patriots are preparing to play the part of Sir John Jackson.

* * * *

The Bath Trades and Labour Council by nine votes to eight resolved to urge "the Government to seek the earliest opportunity for promoting negotiations with the object of securing a just and lasting peace."

LORD BRYCE'S SCHEME

The scheme for a Peace Treaty, prepared by "a group of men" and made public by Lord Bryce, deals with a subject which has already been widely discussed. Lord Bryce's scheme is very much like a number of others on the same lines. Schemes for International Councils of arbitration and conciliation are not in themselves enough to safeguard the world from future wars, but they are making in that direction, and whilst Lord Bryce's scheme might be amended in various directions, we welcome the fact that he has issued it as an evidence that peace is not far off, and that even those who have done what they could to inflame race hatred realise that there will soon be a general revulsion of feeling against War.

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THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

Editor: SYLVIA PANKHURST.

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THE EAST LONDON PEACE DEMONSTRATION

A LITTLE PLAIN SPEAKING.

Good fathers and mothers all, teach these things to your children :—

Do not push and strike people because you think they are going to say something which someone has said you will not agree with.

Do not hit those who are smaller and weaker than yourselves because you know they have not the strength to retaliate.

Do not go in gangs to attack one or two people.

Do not choose to blacken the eyes or make bleed the nose of the strangers in your midst because you think that they will not be able to find you again and hand you over to the police of whom you are afraid.

Do not slink away when those who fight for you are assaulted, nor pass on the other side of the way when rude people call them names.

Do not bite the hand that fed you because its owner is with what may be the minority; do not publicly spurn and revile those who have comforted you, whom you respect and to whom you will turn again in time of anxiety and trouble, merely because you do not wish to be unpopular with the horde that kicks and swears and destroys other people's goods.

Do not allow yourselves to be bribed to attack those with whom you have no quarrel.

Good fathers and mothers, teach your children to avoid these faults, for as the twig is bent so shall the tree grow; those who grow up in the spirit which prompts these actions will always be oppressed, and they will not become brave and happy and well beloved.

* * *

The sun shone joyously on the peace procession last Sunday. "Spring and Peace must come together" said the first banner. And the others followed: "In this War there is a nation without frontiers united in anguish: it is the Nation of Mothers", "The Children of All Nations Want their Fathers Home", "Half the World is Drenched in Blood." At the rear was a black banner with a skull which said, "5,000,000 killed: How many More?" "All are Comrades," said the white banner of the Forest Gate N.-C.F. The red flag of the Walthamstow B.S.P., the red and the purple, white and green of the Workers' Suffrage Federation, the children riding in decorated carts, the Islington Young Citizen Scouts beating their drums and bearing their banner, "Feed My Lambs," made a brave show. Fully a thousand people marched in the procession, and, as we always do in East London, masses of us preferred to swarm along in the gutter and on the pavements beside the procession proper, so that two larger processions walked on either side of those who were marshalled behind the banners. Near the head of the procession marched a young officer, and close by a soldier discharged without pension. Another ex-soldier, who was going to hospital next day, wore his trade union regalia and was busy selling miniature red flags. On every step of the four miles from Beckton Road corner to the Park, sympathetic crowds greeted us, clapping and waving hands. At Poplar Hospital nurses and wounded soldiers cheered us. At Bow obelisk all the world was out to see. Poor mothers with clothes too shabby and boots too old to walk far, and overwhelmed with household cares, smiled and sent their dear hopes with us. Friends came running to join us, gaily, because they had come to bear their witness for the cause of peace. Gallant Mrs. Despard, sister of General French and of Mrs. Harvey, who was killed at her hospital post in Serbia, met us in the Roman Road to walk the last part of the way with us.

The mounted police rode ahead, and there were some four or five constables on foot: all was in order: there was nothing for them to do. Many members of the Criminal Investigation Department of Scotland Yard began to appear as we reached our destination. We knew them well from pre-War days. Why had they come? We have never found them affording protection to pacifists or calling to account those who despitefully use them.

As we marched over the bridge at the end of Grove Road, facing the Park, hostility began to show itself for the first time. There were masses of people around the gates, and the Park itself seemed to be tightly packed with people. Friends in front made a narrow passage-way, and we entered amid cheers of welcome and some hostile shouts. The friends seemed to be in a great majority. Then a crowd of men and lads came running towards us and began tearing at the banners. The struggle for them continued for a long time. The little Citizen Scouts were roughly handled.

The first flag was soon torn from its bamboo pole, and the pole itself was twisted, but Councillor Ben Gardner bore it on, and we followed it to the meeting ground. There in the press of people we saw that the carts brought there to serve as platforms were crowded with jingoes who had no intention of making way for the authorised speakers. Two Hackney Councillors were recognised as being amongst those who were making noisy incitements to disorder. The platforms had been captured by the rowdies, the speakers were lost in the skirmish, so with two or three friends beside us we set our back against the wall of the tea house and began to speak. We found then that the majority of those around us were prepared at least to listen, and many were anxious to give active help. A knot of opponents to the right of us pushed and shouted, but a stalwart sailor who knew the art of standing very firm kept them back, though they cried to him, "Jack, you aren't on their side, are you?"

Presently the Park-keepers came running up to tell us that we must not speak in that place. We agreed to move, and very obligingly they tried to push a way for us into the centre of the meeting ground. "Will you stop here?" they said when we got there; but the opponents had formed up behind them and behind the opponents were masses of people pressing forward to see what was the matter; whilst friends anxious to get us out of harm's way came hurrying from either side. What might have been a meeting had become a stampede. It was useless to argue: we were hurried on to the gates. On our way we saw surprising numbers of people whom we knew, amongst them Mr. A. W. Carter, of the N.U.R., who formed a very effective barricade against any attempt at violence.

In another part of the park Mrs. Despard had mounted the railings to address the crowd. "We don't want the German terms: we want our terms!" the Jingoes yelled at her. The aged lady answered: "You will have neither the German terms nor your own terms; you will have God's terms." They were nonplussed for a moment, then shouted to her to go before she was hurt. "I am not afraid of Englishmen," she answered. "None of you will hurt me." Nor did they; her fearlessness overawed them. Mrs. Bouvier also addressed the crowd for a time, but one cannot long keep a meeting going when one is uncomfortably perched upon the railings.

The Rev. Herbert Dunnico, who was to have spoken at the meeting, estimates that there were 50,000 people in the park, and that the entire disturbance was created by 500 people. We do not know whether his estimate is correct, but the attacking party certainly had a great advantage because many of them did not scruple to kick and thump and push, and some of them used sticks, whereas the demonstrators preferred not to hit back. We do not wish to strike our brothers and sisters; we went to the park on Sunday, as we shall go again, not to fight them, but to reason with them. We wish to win them to our cause, not to put them to flight. Blows cannot alter convictions and ideas; our opponents cannot change our view by their violence; but by our arguments we shall in time convert them.

We asked a neighbour with whom our relations have long been on terms of neighbourly friendship to do us a little service, but he shut his door in our face, and when later on we went to him and protested against his lack of courtesy and kindness, our neighbour told us that he had treated us so for the sake of his home. Alas! too many people think more of the furniture in their houses than of their souls, and we find that sometimes the poor, as well as the rich, think more of their property than of other people's lives! The capitalist system has set its mark upon the workers, as well as upon their masters, and the legal code which places more value upon property than upon human life has its influence on the minds of many men.

Perhaps the most regrettable part of the business was that the organisers of the disturbance had bribed children to take part in it. One little boy went to the tea-house in the park and asked for some biscuits. The lady behind the counter said, "Do you want a pennyworth?" He answered excitedly: "Oh, no; I want much more than that. I have had 6d. given me to smash up the suffragettes' meeting!" The lady behind the counter therefore refused to serve him. It is terribly injurious to the children to exploit them in this way. When we complain that some of the children and some of the girls and lads appear to enjoy rushing in hordes to bate those whom they think unable to retaliate, we must remember that life is very dull and drab in the mean streets of little houses, for which the landlords charge such heavy rents, and that the beauty and colour and vivid variety for which the young growing soul craves is not easily found in East London.

On the canal bridge in Old Ford Road Edward Fuller, who was with his wife, was attacked by a little mob of tall youths. They seized him by the back of the collar and beat him about the head, and yelling: "Throw him in the Cut!" tried to drag him to the wall. In the midst of the struggle he fainted, and his wife prevented him from falling. Two of us ran to their aid. We heard a woman we did not recognise, crying: "Don't hit him when he's' fainting: wait till he's better." We threw our arms about the two who seemed to be the ringleaders and clung to them, arguing about the War, and in the heat of the discussion they forgot their prey.

"He's no right to talk about Peace," they shouted. "We shall have to go to the front soon, and perhaps lose our lives!" "We want to save you," we said. They fell back on the usual argument: "If we don't crush the Germans now they will make war on us again in a few years." They did not appear to know that the last big war Britain fought was against Russia, and that in that war Russia was so far from being crushed that the nations fighting against her had in the end to accept the terms which they had refused a year before. Yet Russia did not rise again in a few years to fight us. The Crimean War was not a fight to a finish. The Franco-German War, though France was not utterly crushed, as some say they would crush the Germans, may more truthfully be called a fight to a finish. France was humiliated, robbed of two of her provinces, and made to pay a heavy indemnity. But France quickly rose again, entered into an alliance with Russia and Britain, and is to-day fighting with them against Germany. Of what use is it, then, to pretend that to fight to a finish will prevent a future war?

On Sunday it was sad to find gangs of men and women so cowardly as to set upon one or two individuals, chivvying them from point to point and beating them with fists or sticks. In the park a lady and her daughters put protecting arms around a youth who was attacked; whereupon the mob of rowdies turned on them. One of the daughters fainted and was carried away by W.S.F. members; the other lost her hat and had her face and head bruised. Mrs. Hasler and Miss Beamish, who went out to look for absent friends, came back with faces bruised and bleeding.

At the Women's Hall Nurse Hebbes and the other helpers had many severe cuts and bruises to attend to, but as far as we know there were no really serious injuries. Mrs. Hasler had a ring wrenched from her finger, Mrs. Cole lost a cameo brooch and a scarf, and she and several others lost their hats. Ever since, telephone messages and letters of inquiry, encouragement and congratulation have poured in upon us at Old Ford Road. Everyone who saw the procession is agreed that it was a triumph, and that its reception in Canning Town and Bow clearly indicates the growth of Peace feeling. Those who passed quietly amongst the people in the park, talking to them and hearing what they had to say, tell us that the larger part of the crowd had come to listen to the speakers and was displeased that others had broken up the meeting. One of our friends who was returning home on a 47 'bus from Liverpool Street suddenly heard a soldier talking about the affair. He said that he had been wounded three times and had a wife and four children, and that now he was about to be sent back to the front. He had been to the Peace meeting in Victoria Park, and declared that if there had been more men there who had been in the trenches and had suffered as he had, the people who had attacked the Peacemakers would not have come out alive! This is a strange world, but certainly it seemed to us that the soldiers had little to do with last Sunday's disturbance.

The meeting is over, but the agitation continues. We shall be in the Park next Sunday.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

QUESTIONS OF THE DAY

THE FOOD QUESTION

The Corn Production Bill, which guarantees to farmers minimum prices of wheat and oats till 1922, has been introduced. It provides that if the average price should fall below the minimum price the Board of Agriculture must pay the farmer the difference on each quarter of wheat he sells. This is a monstrous imposition upon the people, who, either directly by a tax on imported grain or indirectly in other ways, will be made to pay for the subsidy. If the Government had cared more to preserve the vitality of the people than to please the landed interest, it would have preferred to pay the difference between the pre-War price of wheat and its price in the world market in order that the price of bread might be fixed at the pre-War rate. But in each case, whilst the arrangements made by the various Government departments safeguard the interests of those who deal in food, the prices rise steadily. The farmers have been allowed to raise the wholesale price of milk, and now the retailers are demanding the power to sell it at 6½d. a quart from May and at 7d. a quart a month later. New Orders are issued by the Food Controller each day, but they make no appreciable difference: food constantly becomes more scarce and costly. We are told that the scarcity is due to shortage of labour on the land and in the shipyards; yet the "National News" complains that Mr. Neville Chamberlain, the Director-General of National Service, has been at work for four months without finding any men for the Army—the sole purpose of his labours. We understood that he was appointed to save the nation from being starved out by the War Office.

STATE FOOD CONTROL IN RUSSIA

In this, as in franchise reform, Russia is ahead of us. The establishment of a State grain monopoly is announced to be administered by local democratic committees.

SIR JOHN JACKSON'S CASE

The Royal Commission appointed at Sir John Jackson's demand to inquire into the allegations made against him by the Public Accounts Committee has issued its report. The Royal Commission states that, after professing to offer his services from patriotic motives, he secured an agreement with the War Office at a time when he was "practically" able "to dictate his own terms"; that the agreement "was unreasonable"; and that the amount (£150,700) to which he became entitled under it was "greatly excessive." Nevertheless, Sir John Jackson says that he and his firm are "completely exonerated"! The War Office methods are again revealed as shamefully wasteful and unbusinesslike.

WHAT WILL MR. HODCE DO?

The plan of allowing the Volunteers enrolled by the National Service Department to be set to work by Mr. Hodge's Employment Exchanges is said to have led to confusion. The National Service Department will therefore allocate the work. Will there be anything left for Mr. Hodge to do?

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One million and seventy-one thousand women are now replacing men in industry. The net increase of women in industry since July, 1914, is 804,000.

OUT-DOING THE CZAR

Under the Defence of the Realm Act the authorities may now order the closing of any house, building, or land used by persons suspected of causing disaffection. The tyranny of the Czar never extended as far as that!

"THE NATION"

It is announced that the Army Council has added "The Nation" to the list of newspapers, which includes the "Labour Leader" and the "Herald," which may not be sent abroad. Send the DREADNOUGHT instead: it has hitherto escaped the ban. The rule is that only the publisher may send newspapers abroad, so place an order with us, and we will send it to your friends.

The "Manchester Guardian" says of the refusal to allow "The Nation" to be sent abroad:—"The Executive should be given no peace until its grave offence against liberty is purged." The "Guardian" did not realise the enormity of such offences until a newspaper which is closely akin to itself has become the victim. But since "The Nation" has been banned, why not the "Guardian"?

THE INQUISITION

The Cardiff City Council decided not to employ any conscientious objectors. An inquiry was therefore instituted, and all the employees were questioned. The heads of the various departments reported that there were no conscientious objectors except in the Education Department, where a number of men and women teachers had refused to reply and had therefore been ordered to resign. But as the inquisition had been verbal it was decided that it must be in writing. Will the remaining employees tamely submit?

THE MEETING OF PARLIAMENT

The passage of the second reading of the Bill to extend the life of Parliament by 234 votes to 52 was rather a tame ending to the rumours that have been current during the past week. Mr. Dillon's statement that he would withdraw his opposition to the Bill if the Government would give security that they would introduce an Electoral Reform Bill was exceedingly interesting, as was his further statement of belief that the Government intended to do nothing of the kind.

THE CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT BILL AND THE GIRL

If this Bill passes on to the Statute Book in its present form, the age of consent will be 16, yet power will be given to detain a girl under 18, who is convicted of loitering, until she is 19 years of age. Considered as a punishment, such a sentence would be monstrous. The only excuse which it is possible for its advocates to make for it is that girls under 18 are unable to take care of themselves, and may need the protection of the State if they possess no other guardian who is able to shield them from harm. Those who adopt that standpoint must surely insist that the age of consent should be raised to 18 years. We would point out, that the fact that a girl might be committed for several years' detention on the unsupported evidence of the police, would give to men of evil character the power to threaten a friendless girl that if she did not accede to his wishes he would give her in charge for soliciting and have her detained for a year or more. As a man who complains that a woman has accosted him is not called on to give evidence and his bona-fides need not be inquired into, the threat would be formidable enough. Therefore, surely, those who are pressing for this power of detention should also demand that the law be amended so as to secure that the girl or woman who is accused of soliciting or loitering shall not be convicted without at least getting as fair a trial as others have the right to demand. We would further urge them to consider whether the existing reformatories and penitentiaries are the sort of places to which they would like to commit their own daughters for a term of years, for, if not, the scheme is bound to fail. When shall we cease to punish, and instead strive to understand and attack the causes which produce the need for reclamation?

THE N.U.R. AND EQUAL PAY

We learn that many railwaymen, to say nothing of railway-women, are dissatisfied that the executive of the N.U.R. has agreed to accept, instead of the 10s. a week increase demanded for all workers, 5s. a week for the men and only 2s. 6d. for the women. Mr. Bellamy has replied to criticism that "many of the women were receiving separation allowances from the Government, or part-time wages from the railway companies, in respect of husbands on service, in addition to their own wages."

This is a curious argument for a trade unionist to use! It would open the way for every kind of blacklegging. Equal pay for men and women is the only arrangement which the workers can safely or fairly accept.

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Tramway women in Manchester, Salford, Rochdale, Oldham, Stalybridge, Accrington, Ashton-under-Lyne, Birkenhead, Bolton, Bury, Hyde, Preston, Mossley, Dukinfield, Stockport, Warrington, and Wigan, have been granted a war bonus of 3s. 6d. The Blackburn Corporation was the only Lancashire authority to grant the war bonus demanded, i.e., 6s. 6d. to both men and women. It is estimated that between four and five thousand women will receive the 3s. 6d. bonus and about one thousand the 6s. 6d. bonus.

STARVATION WAGES

The annual conference of the National Union of Teachers passed a resolution "That education should be free through all its stages, that attendance at school should extend from the age of five to 14, and that compulsory education should go on until the age of 18, with not more than 48 hours a week for labour and school attendance (not less than eight hours to be devoted to education)."

Though it asks too little, the proposal is in the right direction.

The new President complained that the supply of qualified teachers is "totally inadequate," and that teachers are paid "starvation wages," 222 teachers being said to receive less than £50 a year, and 40 per cent. less than 38s. a week. The cases were quoted of a headmaster in an Eastern county appointed 40 years ago at £70 a year, who is now getting £95, and of a headmistress in a county near London who was appointed 30 years ago at a wage of 23s. a week who has had no increase! He further urged that there should be a pensions scheme for all branches of the profession, and that retirement should be optional at 60 instead of at 65 years.

Afterwards, instead of pressing for the cessation of the War, which is heightening the scarcity of teachers, driving the children into the labour market, and making it more difficult to pay adequate salaries, the conference passed a resolution expressing its "pride" in the killing game and its "unswerving loyalty and devotion" to the King!

PEACE MEETING

Victoria Park, To-Morrow

SUNDAY, 3.30 p.m.

Speakers: MRS. BOUVIER, MRS. COLE, MRS. DESPARD, MRS. DRAKE, and Others.

REMINISCENSES OF VICTORIA PARK

Resolution

The resolutions to be passed in the Park last Sunday were as follows:—

(a) This meeting recognises that the workers of the world have no cause of quarrel, and desiring the fraternity of all peoples, welcomes the declaration of the Russian Provisional Government that it does not wish to annex Constantinople; and, earnestly desiring to end the barbarous bloodshed which is wiping out a generation of the world's manhood and will inevitably bring starvation upon the population of more than half the earth, calls upon the British Government to enter into immediate peace negotiations.

(b) This meeting sends fraternal greetings and congratulations to the Russian people on gaining their charter of civil liberty, and calls upon the British Government to introduce a similar measure of freedom in this land.

The speakers were:—

(A) Councillor Ben Gardner (chair); Sylvia Pankhurst, to move (a); Rosa Hobhouse, to second (a); Reginald W. Sorensen, to move (b); Mrs. Walker, to second (b).

(B) Mrs. Bouvier (chair); Mrs. Despard, to move (a); The Rev. Humphrey Chalmers, to second (a); E. C. Fairchild, to move (b); Mrs. Boyce, to second (b).

(C) Mrs. Drake (chair); Theodora Wilson Wilson, to move (a); Harry Dubery, to second (a); Alexander Gossip, to move (b); S. Higenbottam, to second (b).

The resolutions will be put next Sunday, and many of last Sunday's speakers will be present.

From Members of the Audience

Mr. Edward Fuller writes:—"Human nature is a strange thing!' Said one angry woman to a woman in the procession: 'I've lost my old man in the War. How dare you ask for peace till we've won?' Another—a girl of twenty or so, dressed in deep mourning—was overheard to say, 'Well, my boy's "gone West," and I'm sure I want peace if anyone does.' 'What do we want with peace when we're winning?' was a favourite query on the part of a stalwart man of possibly just over military age, whereas by a strange mental distortion lads of seventeen and eighteen seemed resentful against the pacifists because they were shortly to be called to the obviously distasteful duty of 'joining up.'

"Despite the denouement of the demonstration, there were many features which made the organisers and participants feel that the effort was worth while. The spontaneous sympathy expressed all along the route was most encouraging and was undoubtedly far more genuinely indicative of the attitude of East London than the organised brutality of the mob in the Park. Most encouraging of all was the fact that the disturbers of the peace on this occasion were not soldiers: in the main they appeared to be men of military age who are, presumably, exempted from military service, and elderly men, whose age, in this relation, is their salvation. Many of the soldiers were most kind in their efforts to protect the demonstrators from the mob, and one could not help recalling such statements as that of Corporal Lees-Smith, M.P., that 'the men in the trenches want Peace.'"

The Rev. Herbert Dunnico writes:—"The behaviour of a certain section of the crowd in Victoria Park on Sunday afternoon would have been a disgrace in an uncivilised community, but happily such behaviour was confined to a section, and one as small as it was disreputable. I joined the procession (about 1,000 strong) in Bow, and was surprised to find that the crowds lining the roads at various places en route were overwhelmingly sympathetic, and not a few women were seen to be in tears. An occasional jeer from some half-drunken man and noise created at intervals by small groups of children were the only signs of hilarity. I saw no indication anywhere of hostility. Even as the procession approached the gates of Victoria Park, where a crowd of eight or ten thousand people had gathered, I did not hear a single unfriendly cry. The police, who were present in great force near the entrance to the Park, did not accompany the procession inside, where a vast crowd, estimated to number at least 70,000, and in all probability approaching 100,000 persons, had assembled. For some few minutes the procession wended its way through dense crowds amid few signs of disapproval and many signs of sympathy, and not until a few ruffians made an attack upon a 'band,' composed of youths will under military age, was there the slightest sign of disturbance. This, however, was the signal for other super-patriots to wrest from women and children a number of small banners in their possession, and this caused so great confusion that the procession was broken up by being simply merged into the masses of people round about. I stayed in the Park for several hours afterwards, and witnessed a great deal of rowdyism, and not a little brutality, by gangs of young men eligible for the Army. Thousands of those present on Sunday were in full sympathy with the objects of the demonstration. A much larger number not in active sympathy had come prepared to listen quietly to the speeches, and it is safe to say that the whole of rowdyism was limited to less than 500 people, and the whole disturbance was initiated by not more than twenty persons. Anyhow, it is a great achievement to have marched 1,000 strong through the streets of London for nearly two hours without signs of hostility, and amid many expressions of sympathy, in addition to having attracted nearly 100,000 people to a demonstration, the vast majority of whom were disgusted at the action of those who posed as patriots, and a considerable number of whom were in entire sympathy with the ideals of the promoters.

Delighted with the March

Mr. Alexander Gossip, N.A.F.T.A., writes: "Just a line to express my deep detestation of the cowardly and brutal conduct of the mob yesterday afternoon. I was near the front of the procession, falling in at the Obelisk, Bow, and was delighted with our march.

• • • •

"One of the women comrades who was along with the Socialist Crusaders (boys and girls) got a nasty smash in the face with a stone, and the kiddies were finally got safe together down by the fence which runs at right angles from the road we took in the Park. I got through all safe, save for a bit of a shaking, as we were right in the thick of it. A cabinetmaker got smashed about the face for protesting against the buffeting of a woman by some skunks, and I ran up against him as he was holding his head."

• • • •

Corfield Street, Bethnal Green.

Dear Comrade,—Please accept our heartiest congratulations on the pluckiest of all stands made on behalf of Peace. The Press, which is so full of German atrocities, surely possesses no looking glass after the display yesterday. When one surveys the forces arrayed against our cause, such as plain clothes men who gloried in all that took place, a clergyman who was proud of associating with an element which I heard personally use the most filthy and vile expressions, it only convinces one of the strength which lies in the movement for Peace: a strength which strikes more fear into them by power of reason than all the brute force combined. One curious anomaly was a batch of crippled discharged men rushing from a meeting of protest against being called up again and storming our platforms crying, "We don't want no Peace; we want to go back, but they won't let us!" No words exist which could convey our feelings towards you and your associates for the stand made.—Yours fraternally, with all good wishes, Comrades Mr. and Mrs. CHAS. LEE.

Organising the Rush

A correspondent informs us that she saw a well-dressed man of military age instructing some boys in making rushes. When the procession entered the Park she also overheard a man say to the gang who had started to seize the flags, "Not there, you fools, go to the head of the procession." Some of the men were reluctant to do so, having been struck, but the leader forced them to go.

• • • •

Mrs. Martin, of Lewisham, writes:—My husband and I were there and were delighted to see you enter the Park, but we were fully sorry to see the mob which was organised for the purpose of breaking up the meeting. We would have liked to stay longer, only of course I had to study my baby, which is only eight months old. Nevertheless, I firmly believe our cause is growing speedily, and I wish you every success. I can assure you that if there is any little way in which we could help we will gladly do it. We are working-class, and we will not desert our class for capitalists.

• • • •

Another discharged soldier writes:—

"I shall think of what I saw in Victoria Park yesterday while I am in hospital. It was a disgrace, as every right-thinking man and woman will agree, but such brutalities will never stop the progress of humanity towards International Socialism."

• • • •

LOST in Victoria Park last Sunday, 30s. in notes and French library book. Will finder please communicate with M.I., 400 Old Ford Road, E.?

• • • •

Several Pressmen took photographs of the procession, and one got on to the roof of the tea-house in the park to snapshot Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, who was speaking, but a DREADNOUGHT representative who sought to procure copies next morning was told that the negatives were destroyed.

ORIGINAL DEFECTIVE.

CONFERENCE (continued from front page).

would prevent War between Socialists: it would prevent them agreeing to be sent hither and thither to fight at the dictation of others. It meant that they should form a universal brotherhood held together by a great faith. The resolution was, he thought, a step of fundamental importance to Socialists, and if adopted by them, he believed that it would speedily infect the whole Labour movement. The resolution was carried by a huge majority with tremendous cheering.

With all its enthusiasm the spirit of the conference was conspicuously lacking in constructive energy, a defect from which almost all progressive movements are at present suffering most gravely.

The conscientious objectors of Belmont Settlement had placed on the agenda a resolution "That in the event of War being declared, the workers of the countries concerned should immediately declare a general strike." James Maxton wished to move this, but the Chairman ruled that it must fall to the ground, because its original sponsors were not able to be present. There was hardly a protest, and with few exceptions it was obvious that the delegates had no interest in the proposal, although Keir Hardie, the founder of I.L.P., struggled for many years to secure its adoption by the International. He was gradually drawing nearer to the goal when War broke out. Russia's recent example should make the prospect of the general strike more real to the workers of all the world.

Walton Newbold, C. H. Norman, and others criticised the policy of the N.A.C., and seemed to demand more vigorous constructive action, but their criticism was expressed rather in destructive than in constructive terms, and therefore achieved no definite result.

In the I.L.P., as in other progressive movements, the younger protagonists who are not yet burdened with the cares of office, should apply themselves to preparing, elaborating, and making known throughout the Party, definite plans for applying the principles they stand for to present-day problems and for popularising them amongst the people at large. Too often the energy which might thus be well spent is dissipated in what proves to be merely abortive criticism, because the critics ask those in office to make the effort in constructive thought, which either they themselves have shirked, or have not clearly revealed to others.

The resolutions on international matters conspicuously revealed the need for the City of London proposal asking the N.A.C.:

"To call a conference to discuss the international situation, and, if possible, to formulate a basis for peace proposals, to which conference representatives of the branches of the organisations forming the United Socialist Council shall be invited."

W. C. Anderson spoke strongly in support of this, saying that it would be a disaster if, when peace negotiations come to be made the Socialist movement should have failed to explore and to form a definite policy on the whole situation. J. R. Macdonald suggested as an alternative that the N.A.C. should secure the appointment of a Commission to prepare a report to be submitted to the United Socialist Council, and urged that the resolution should be withdrawn. Instead of asking that Macdonald's proposal should be combined with the resolution and that the report of the Commission should be used as the preliminary agenda for the conference, Walton Newbold withdrew the proposal for a delegate conference altogether. A proof that critics of the official policy have frequently no other alternative to put forward.

The Standing Orders Committee now came forward with a proposal which completely frustrated the discussion of a number of important matters. This was that resolutions should henceforth be formally moved and not spoken to, unless there was opposition, in which case there should be a five minutes' speech by one opponent and a five minutes' reply by the mover. Immediately afterwards came a resolution calling upon the I.L.P. Members of Parliament to divide the House against the War Credits. Perriman, of Bristol, opposed it, declaring it to be virtually a vote of censure on those concerned. Bruce Glasier then pointed out that owing to the rule just adopted, which allowed only one speech on either side there would be no opportunity for the Members of Parliament to put their case against the resolution. He therefore moved the previous question, which was carried. Had the suspension of the Standing Orders been moved, the members of Parliament might have had their reply; but, in any case, Mr. Snowden had previously explained, in dealing with the Parliamentary report, everything of any importance which could possibly have been said by way of reply. He had indicated, by the way, that he was in favour of voting against the War Credits, but that his colleagues were not.

Such important questions as the control of industry by the workers, on which subject the I.L.P. has as yet formulated no detailed policy, naval and military pensions, housing, education land, employment exchanges, nationalisation of banking were hurried through almost without discussion, and in most cases referred to the N.A.C., the delegates banging their feet on the floor at any attempt at speech-making.

There were three emergency resolutions, one in favour of prohibition, one urging that dinners and teas should be served to children in municipal kitchens in districts where a large proportion of mothers goes out to work, one opposing the taxation of co-operators' dividends. Of course, none of these are peculiarly Socialist proposals; indeed, it can hardly be said that any apparent development of Socialist ideology was marked by the conference, except perhaps in its general attitude towards War.

ELECTORAL REFORM.

Although conscription has greatly thinned the ranks of the I.L.P. men, women delegates were few, and except that Mrs. Snowden moved the prohibition resolution, and that Miss Bondfield, N.A.C., briefly seconded a vote of thanks, the women delegates were almost entirely silent. In this state of affairs the clue to the comparative lack of interest displayed by the conference in the question of electoral reform may in part be found. The refusal of political power to women has largely retarded their political evolution towards Socialism. Though women are in many ways more politically progressive than men, a large proportion of women who in an equal suffrage community would now be Socialists, is still in the stage of Radicalism. The conscientious objectors have forced upon the I.L.P. the non-resistant attitude in regard to War, which implies the acceptance of a philosophy much in advance of the times. This they have done in spite of the Party's Parliamentary representatives, who, not unnaturally, are inclined to be deterred from extreme courses by their experience in the House of Commons. On the franchise question the I.L.P. Parliamentary representatives (with perhaps only one exception, Mr. Richardson, who reaffirmed his position at the conference), and apparently the entire N.A.C., have accepted the leadership of the middle-class suffrage movement. It is to be regretted that the standpoint of the rank and file working class women did not receive expression at the conference. The delegates were informed that the N.A.C. had not yet considered the Speaker's Conference proposals, though in the N.A.C. report a brief statement of the subject was accompanied by the comment: "The enfranchisement of all men and women has, we believe, been advanced another stage," and it was stated that the Party was represented at the Labour Party conference on March 20th. A Nelson delegate asked whether the N.A.C. had supported something less than Adult Suffrage at that conference, and Mr. Snowden admitted that it had. Councillor Dollan, of Glasgow, urged that the I.L.P. Members of Parliament should press for adult suffrage. Philip Snowden, M.P., replied that there was no chance of securing it, and that the Speaker's Conference proposals would enfranchise from 6,000,000 to 8,000,000 women. We wish that Mr. Snowden would explain how he arrives at these figures, seeing that the present Parliamentary franchise for men produces only 7½ million voters, and that the Parliamentary franchise proposed for women is not merely to be whittled down by an age limit of 30 to 35, but is also to be upon a narrower basis than that at present exercised by men.

Closely questioned as to whether the I.L.P. would move widening amendments to the proposed Government Bill or support such amendments if moved by others, Mr. Snowden's most hopeful statement was that it would be "no breach of the compromise" to move widening amendments in regard to women, because the conference recommendations on that head were not unanimous. But he qualified this statement by saying that it is impossible to decide what action to take until the Bill is introduced. The following resolutions were carried without discussion:—

"This conference urges the N.A.C. to use its influence to secure full Adult Suffrage before the next General Election."

"This conference recommends the adoption of Adult Suffrage at the age of 21 years. One person one vote, and the qualification to be residential, registration to be a Government duty, abolition of the University franchise, abolition of the ratepaying qualifications and the introduction of proportional representation."

Councillor Dollan protested that the carrying of such resolutions was futile in view of the declaration of the I.L.P. Members that they would not support them.

Members of the W.S.F. will regret to learn of the death of our old Friend and Comrade Mrs. PERCIVAL of Norman Road, Bow. She was with us in many a hard struggle. We desire to offer our deep sympathy to her family.

GOVAN VOTE ON PROHIBITION.

A prohibition plebiscite of 11 shipyards and factories in the Govan district has had the following result:—For prohibition, 3,607; against, 2,398. Ten thousand ballot cards were issued, and it was stated on them that all cards not returned would be considered as votes in favour of prohibition. Govan was one of the principal centres of the rent strike.

THE B.S.P. CONFERENCE.

By A. A. Watts.

The Sixth Annual Conference of the British Socialist Party took place at Caxton Hall, Salford, on Easter Sunday and Monday, April 8th and 9th, and was attended by delegates from all parts of the country. From every point of view the Conference was an unqualified success, the dominant notes being Peace and Internationalism.

The Party can look back on a year of strenuous and useful work. Undoubtedly the twelve months that have elapsed since the Conference of 1916 have been one of the most trying periods the Socialist movement has experienced. Prior to the gathering last year the activities of the Party had been to a large extent paralysed owing to the fact that a number of the prominent members were supporters of the "fight to a finish" of the Government but the delegates made short work of this minority in its ranks, who at an early stage of the proceedings left the Conference. Since then the Party has played an active part in opposition to the bloodthirsty slaughter that is decimating the nations, and, perhaps more important still, in its consistent efforts to keep alive the international bond of the workers of all countries. It has recognised and kept alive during the dark days the fact that the fight of the workers is not against each other at the bidding of capitalist Governments, but against those Governments themselves, and was determined that this clear issue should not be confused or hidden.

The report of the Executive Council is a fine record of the year's work, and brought out the facts we have just enumerated in a bold and concise manner. It also records the fight the Party has made against both Military and Industrial Conscription, and shows how the members have joined hands and taken part with other organisations against the Prussian tactics of the ruling authorities.

Amongst the resolutions passed was one sending fraternal greetings to the Socialists of the United States and "applauding their efforts to preserve the American workers from the horrors and miseries of war," and a long and eloquent message to the Russian workers expressing profound admiration for their revolutionary initiative in planting the Red Flag on the throne of the Tsars. E. C. Fairchild, who moved the resolution, made a stirring speech, which evoked the enthusiasm of the entire Conference. Several other resolutions on "War and Peace" and the "International" were also carried unanimously.

But the Conference did not forget there were other important matters besides the above, and arrived at important decisions on many domestic subjects. The Restitution of Trade Union Rights, Industrial Organisation, Demobilisation, State Control of Railways, Mines and Shipping, and Pensions and Separation Allowances for disabled soldiers and sailors and their wives and dependants, are some of the questions on which definite decisions were reached. On Food Production and Control the Conference demanded that "private ownership in the land of the country be immediately abolished, that agriculture be organised as a national industry, and that the further and other processes of food manufacture and production be taken over and carried on as part of the national activities," and in this connection it strongly condemned the Government for not having taken over the production and distribution of the food supply, rather than having set up a sham and incomplete control, which merely guarantees the profits of the capitalists. Our comrades who have been imprisoned and interned were also not forgotten.

The energy and enthusiasm displayed at the Conference is a sign that the Party will emerge triumphant from whatever ordeal may yet be in store, and that it realises its lofty mission as the banner-bearer of the workers. We share the confidence of the members that a great duty lies before them and that they will be fully capable of rising to the fullest demands made on them in the cause of Socialism and the emancipation of the workers.

Workers' Suffrage Federation: Leeds Branch

JUDGE HENRY NEIL of Chicago,
will address a Meeting on
Mothers' Pensions as adopted in America; and
Miss SYLVIA PANKHURST
will speak on Adult Suffrage.
PHILOSOPHICAL HALL, LEEDS.
(Chairman: Alderman Frank Fountain)
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25th next, at 7.30 p.m.
EVERY THINKING WOMAN SHOULD ATTEND
Prices of Admission: 2/- (Reserved Seats), 1/- and 6d.
Tickets may be had from Mrs. E Hunter, 7 Sugden Fold Armley, and Members of Workers' Suffrage Federation.

"AT HOME"
TO MISS SYLVIA PANKHURST
MAY 19th, 7 to 10 p.m.
Emily Davison Lodge Rooms, 145 High Holborn.

Muriel Matters
will lecture on
The Montessori Method
and
Infant Welfare
At the MORLEY HALL, George Street, Hanover Square.
FRIDAY, MAY 11th at 5 p.m.
Hostess: THE LADY SYBIL SMITH
Dr. BARBARA TCHAYKOVSKY will also speak
All interested in child welfare and education are cordially invited
Application for Tickets (admission free) should be sent to the "Mothers Arms", 438 Old Ford Road, E. 3. enclosing stamped envelope for reply.

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ELECTORIAL REFORM

IN BRITAIN.

Undismayed by Mr. Lloyd George's threat that the Government will not introduce a Franchise Bill if proportional representation is insisted upon as part of the compromise, the advocates of P.R. are pressing for it with vigour and urgency. If Adult Suffragists will summon up their courage to press in the same way, the feeble proposals of the Speaker's Conference can be broadened till they embrace votes for all men and women.

* * * *

The Women's Co-operative Guild, with reference to the proposals of the Speaker's Conference, says that the argument that women should be enfranchised on account of war-work is insincere and illogical since wage-earners are mostly excluded:—"Therefore, we desire (1) that residence should be made the qualification for voting, for it need hardly be pointed out that very few single wage-earning women are tenants or owners of land or houses; (2) that the age should be lowered to 21, thus enfranchising women on the same terms as men."

AN ANTI-SUFFRAGIST.

We take the following extract from an article in the "Westminster Gazette":—

"It is indisputable that women have rendered invaluable services during the War. But what ground have the political friends of the Suffragists for the bold initial assumption that the women who want the vote and the women who do the work are conterminously the same set of women? The women who want the vote wanted it before the War, want it on grounds apart from the War. But there must be at least as many non-Suffragist and anti-Suffragist women engaged in War work as Suffragists. Are the anti-Suffragists to find that the penalty of their patriotism is that it shall be the very ground on which the revolutionary change they don't want is to be thrust upon them?"

The reply to this argument is that no real suffragist wants the vote as a reward for service, but as an act of justice.

IN RUSSIA.

Again the hope of securing complete Adult Suffrage is renewed in Russia. The Council of Workmen's and Soldiers' Delegates has declared in favour of votes for men and women of 20. They insist that women shall share in the new franchise on equal terms.

* * * *

In reply to a deputation of Russian women, Prince Lvoff, the Russian Premier, declared that the new Government has unanimously agreed to grant votes to women. A proclamation to the women of Russia at an early date was promised.

* * * *

A correspondent from Petrograd writes on March 8th (21st English style): "The question of women voting at the election for the Constituent Assembly is finding energetic support, and there is every probability of it going through." He also says that in the new Union of Civil Engineers women are admitted as members. He further praises the work of the militia in protecting people from uncalled-for domiciliary visits from self-appointed "traitor" hunters.

IN GERMANY.

Herr Harden urges that Germany's best hope of saving the situation is constitutional reform. He is a strong supporter of votes for women.

FOREIGN NEWS

RUSSIA'S REORGANISATION.

The Russian War Minister, Gutskow, has announced that all restrictions with regard to religion will be abolished. Henceforth Jewish and other non-orthodox soldiers will have the right to become officers—all military schools will be open to them.

The Russian Home Minister has decided that in future there will be no more persecutions of alien enemies. They will have the freedom of earning their living. All draconic laws against alien enemies will be abolished. Abuses against German, Austrian, or Bulgarian subjects will be severely punished.

* * * *

The German Deputies of the Socialist Minority Party have sent to Tcheidze, of the Russian Council of Soldiers' and Workmen's Delegates, a telegram, in which they say: "We heartily greet the revolt of the Russian proletariat. Its victory will emancipate humanity from the yoke of the War and the vicious tendencies of expansion and exploitation."

* * * *

At the Russian Constitutional-Democrats' (or Liberals) Congress the Deputy Kokothkin proposed the following resolution:—"Russia must become a democratic Republic. The President to have executive power and to be elected by the national representatives. The Government to act through the intermediary of a responsible Ministry." The Congress further declared that land should be given to those who work upon it.

* * * *

The Peasant Union in Russia, representing the great majority of the Russian people has declared for a Republic. The soil of appanages and churches, etc., should be expropriated on condition of just compensation and a maximum number of hectars should be established in future for one proprietor. The Union also demands universal and compulsory education.

* * * *

The committee of the Russian Socialist Groups in London have sent a letter to Tcheidze in which they protest against the French and English Socialist Majority parties, both of which endeavour to influence the Russian Socialist workers to stop their peace movement and to renounce the ideals of international solidarity and the class struggle.

* * * *

Count Reventlow says in the "Deutsche Tageszeitung": "Peace without victors and vanquished means the downfall of the German Monarchy."

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In Switzerland, bread prices have increased 70 per cent.

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The Deputy Haase, of the Socialist-Minority, said in the Reichstag: "The Russian Revolution imposes on us the duty of opening peace negotiations without delay. We demand an immediate truce to conclude peace without annexation or indemnities and on the basis of self-government."

* * * *

The Deputy Ledebour said: "Our aim for Germany is to make it a Republic, and we are convinced that we shall attain it before long."

GERMAN WOMEN WORKERS.

Since the War the number of women workers has considerably increased in Germany. According to statistics made in July, 1916, there are in Prussia 2,300,000 men and 2,200,000 women workers. In Bavaria the number of women workers is 385,000 and the number of men workers 358,000. In Saxony 484,000 men, and 481,000 women workers. The proportion in other parts in Germany is about the same. The number of women workers in different German towns is considerably greater than the number of men workers. Berlin has 593,433 women and 415,629 men workers, Breslau 130,000 women and 116,000 men workers, Liegnitz 96,000 women and 82,000 men, München 125,000 women and 93,000 men, Nurnberg 74,000 men and 50,000 women, Dresden 150,000 women and 149,000 men, Leipzig 136,000 men and 133,000 women workers.

LLOYD GEORGE AS WEATHERCOCK

Mr. Lloyd George, at the Queen's Hall on July 28th, 1908, said:—

"Look at the position of Germany. Her army is to her what our navy is to us—her sole defence against invasion. She has not got a two-power standard. She may have a stronger army than France, than Russia, than Italy, than Austria, but she is between two great powers, who, in combination, could pour in a vastly greater number of troops than she has. Don't forget that when you wonder why Germany is frightened at alliances and understandings, and some sort of mysterious workings which appear in the Press, and hints in the 'Times' and 'Daily Mail' . . . . There is Germany in the middle of Europe, with France and Russia on either side, and with a combination of their armies greater than hers. Suppose we had here a possible combination which would lay us open to invasion—suppose Germany and France, or Germany and Russia, or Germany and Austria, had fleets which, in combination, would be stronger than ours, would not we be frightened? Would we not arm? Of course we should."

Mr. Lloyd George, at the Savoy, April, 1917:—

"They knew what it all meant. The Prussian Army in recent times had waged three wars—all for conquest. And the incessant tramping of its legions through the streets of Prussia and on the parade grounds of Prussia had got into the Prussian head. The Kaiser, when he witnessed it on a grand scale in his reviews, got drunk with the sound of it. He delivered the law to the world, as though Potsdam were a new Sinai and he were uttering the law from the thundercloud. But make no mistake; Europe was uneasy; Europe was half intimidated; Europe was anxious; Europe was apprehensive. We knew the whole time what it meant. What we did not know was the moment it would come. This is the menace, this is the oppression, from which Europe has suffered for 50 years."

A CRY OF DISTRESS.

"I was passed for the Army as a fit man on August 24th, 1915. I had the misfortune to be taken ill whilst on my training and was sent to hospital to undergo an operation. I was discharged from there as totally unfit for further military service with a small amount of money which was due to me as my pay. I have been living from hand to mouth ever since. It is impossilbe for me to do any laborious work, as I tried over and over again. I have a wife and three women to support. As a last resort I was told to write to you and ask you if you could see your way clear to intercede for me. I am worthy of a little recognition from the Government."

FOOD MEETING.

A most successful Food Meeting was held on Saturday last at St. Pancras. The speakers included Mrs. Walker and Mrs. Boyce. Collection, 9s. 6d. Resolution of protest against high food prices and the War was sent to Lord Devonport.

LEYTON BRANCH "AT HOME."

Wanstead Slip Liberal Club was the scene of a most successful "At Home" arranged by the Leyton Branch of the W.S.F. to meet Sylvia Pankhurst, on Friday night. The large hall was filled with members and non-members, and was gaily decorated with the Federation colours. Light refreshments were served, under the direction of Mmes. Walshe, Hasler, Holloway and Moore, and there were pleasant opportunities for conversation between the items of a musical and elocutionary programme submitted by Mr. Harold J. Lane, Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Gill, Mr. Bradbury and Dorothy Matthews, whose items included one of her own poems entitled, "A Soldier's Mother." The branch secretary, Mrs. Hart, was unfortunately away at Teignmouth attending the second court-martial of her C.O. son, who has already served one term of hard labour in Wormwood Scrubbs, but the gathering remembered her in a telegram despatched during the evening, in the following terms: "Members and friends of Leyton W.S.F. 'At Home' to Sylvia send greeting and best wishes to their Secretary."

Mrs. Norah Walshe took the chair for the speeches and spoke of Miss Pankhurst's work in East London, and paid tribute to her character and her power of inspiring devotion. Miss Pankhurst herself dealt with the multifarious activities of the W.S.F., and urged the necessity for courage and hope and a steadfast belief in ideals. Thanks and appreciation were voiced by Edward Fuller and Miss Patricia Lynch, and the meeting concluded with the singing of "The Red Flag," the "national anthem" of Socialism, which was written by the chairman's father, James Connell.

* * * *

At Chandos Hall on Saturday, April 14th, Mr. Arthur Lewis, of the Zionist Federation, gave an interesting outline of "The Zionist Movement." He urged that Palestine should be the cultural centre for the Jewish race, and gave as his opinion that the Jews of the Eastern countries would be most likely to settle there. A lively discussion followed.

"SOMEWHERE IN FRANCE."

A soldier has related the following incidents which occurred: "somewhere in France":—

"When the battery moved into a fresh trench the Germans opposite hoisted a placard bearing the words: 'You were at the Somme and we were at the Somme; if you don't fire we won't fire.' The English disregarded this.

"Another day a German private came across 'No man's Land' to give himself up, calling 'Kammeraden,' but before he reached the English trenches the Germans turned on a machine gun and shot him down."

KNIGHT AND COLE LTD.'S FACTORY.
KNIGHT'S PROJECTILE FACTORY, MILLWALL.

In our issue of November 18th last we printed an article headed "Another East London Strike," and which dealt with conditions of the employees at Messrs. Knight and Cole Ltd.'s Projectile Factory, Cubit Street, Millwall. The article was written in good faith and reliance upon information we had received and from employees at the factory. Included in such article appeared the following: "When advertising for workers the firm offers a War Bonus, but none is paid." Before printing this assertion we were informed by workers at the factory that this was correct, and we printed the same in the honest belief that it was true. We now find that we were entirely misinformed in the matter, and that our informants were confusing the advertisements issued by other firms with those inserted by Messrs. Knight and Cole Ltd. Having satisfied ourselves beyond doubt that our informants were wrong, we can do no other than withdraw the statement and tend to Messrs. Knight and Cole Ltd. our deep regret that it should have been made.

GLASGOW HOOLIGANS DEFEATED.

A successful conference to protest against Industrial Conscription was held at Glasgow on Saturday under the auspices of the National Council for Civil Liberties. Councillor E. Shirwell presided over an attendance of 320 delegates, representing 160 organisations, with a combined membership of 250,000. The speakers included Mrs. Helen Crawfurd, J. Ramsay Macdonald, Wm. Gallacher, Egerton P. Wake, and James Maxton. The following amended resolution was carried:—

"This Conference of Delegates, representative of Scottish Trade Union, Labour, and kindred Organisations, regards with the utmost contempt the proposals made by the Prime Minister to break the clear and emphatic pledges given to the Trade Union Movement by irresponsible Ministers of State against Industrial Conscription, and his expressed intention to introduce a measure of Industrial Conscription and thus complete the militarisation of the nation. We protest in the strongest possible terms against such a proposal, and call upon the rank and file of the Labour and Socialist Movement to prevent so flagrant a breach of faith with the Trade Union Movement, and to avert so vital a blow from being aimed at the industrial population of this country. Further, in the event of Industrial Conscription being forced on the workers of this country we urge the Trade Unions to convene a national conference to formulate a drastic policy of determined opposition."

A resolution was also passed congratulating the workers of Russia on having won their political freedom. An attempt to rush the conference was frustrated by the stewards, who made a fine stand for the right of public meeting, and gave the invaders a rough handling. The hooligans were given a tousy time, and if similar treatment is accorded to all other bullies who try to prevent expression of minority opinion there will be no need to appeal to the Government to protect the right of meeting. The police in many cases approve of disturbances at pacifist meetings.

P.J.D.

BOW WOMEN'S HALL

SUNDAY, APRIL 22nd, at 7 p.m.
Speaker: Mr. F. J. SHAW (U.D.C.)
"Democracy and the Trade War."
Chair: Mrs. BOUVIER.

The New Crusader

(Enlarged issue, price One Penny)

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INDEPENDENT LABOUR PARTY
City of London Branch

A DEBATE on "Should Peace be Negotiated Now?"

Affirmative: H. J. STENNING (I.L.P.)
Negative: Councillor FRED H. GORLE (Nat. Soc. Pty.)

Monday, April 30th, 7.30 p.m.
AT
Ashburton Restaurant, 28 Red Lion Square, Holborn, W.C.
Chair: GEORGE LANSBURY
Admission free . . . . . Collection

THE WORKERS' SUFFRAGE FEDERATION

To secure Human Suffrage, namely, a Vote for every Woman and Man of full age, and to win Social and Economic Freedom for the People.

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Minimum Subscription... 1d. a month

I wish to become a Member of the W.S.F. and enclose.....subscription and entrance fee for.....months.

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***Address*.....**

WHAT'S ON?

W.S.F. FIXTURES

OUTDOOR

SATURDAY, APRIL 21st.
Hoxton Street, 12 (noon), Miss Price, Miss Beamish.
SUNDAY, APRIL 22nd.
Osborn Street, Whitechapel, 11.30 a.m., Miss Price.
"Salmon and Ball," Bethnal Green, 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Walker.
Victoria Park, 3.30 p.m., Peace meeting.
Cannon Street Road, Whitechapel, 3.30 p.m., Mrs. Walker.
MONDAY, APRIL 23rd.
"Whitehouse," Canning Town, 3 p.m., Miss Price.
TUESDAY, APRIL 24th.
Piggott Street, Poplar, 12 (noon), Miss Price.
"Salmon and Ball," Bethnal Green, 6.30 p.m., Mrs. Boyce.
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25th.
"Whitehouse," Canning Town, 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Boyce.
Grundy Street, Poplar, 6.30 p.m., Mrs. Boyce.
THURSDAY, APRIL 26th.
Club Row, Bethnal Green, 12 (noon), Mrs. Boyce.
FRIDAY, APRIL 27th.
Bonner Lane, Old Ford Road, 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Boyce.
SATURDAY, APRIL 28th.
Grundy Street, Poplar, 11.30 a.m., Miss Price.
Hoxton Street, 2.30 p.m., Miss Price, Miss Beamish.
Armagh Road, Bow, 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Boyce.
Hague Street, Bethnal Green, 6.30 p.m., Mrs. Boyce.

INDOOR

CHANDOS HALL "At Home," 21a Maiden Lane (off Bedford Street, Strand).—Saturday, April 28th, Mrs. Bouvier, "The Present Outlook"; Mr. Philip Frankford, "Socialist Bureaux."

BOW WOMEN'S HALL, 400 Old Ford Road.—Sunday, April 22nd, 7 p.m., Mr. F. J. Shaw (U.D.C.), "Democracy and the Trade War." Chair, Mrs. Bouvier. April 29th, Miss Wakefield, "The Criminal Law Amendment Bill." Chair: Mrs. Boyce.—Singing Class Wednesday 8 p.m. Thursday 8 p.m., Speakers' Class, Mrs. Boyce.

BROMLEY, 53 St. Leonard's Street.—Monday, April 23rd, 2 p.m., Miss Lynch.

POPLAR, 20 Railway Street.—Wednesday, April 25th, 8.15 p.m., Mr. Frankford, "Socialism and State Slavery."

WILLIAM MORRIS HALL, Somers Road, Walthamstow.—April 24th, 2.30. Speaker: Mrs. Boyce.

29b LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS.—7 p.m., Wednesday, April 25th, Central Branch Meeting.

OTHER ORGANISATIONS

The London Labour Council for Adult Suffrage will hold a Delegates' Conference in the Chandos Hall to-day (Saturday, April 21st), at 3 p.m.

MAY-DAY MEETING

Upwards of 50 trade union, Socialist and progressive organisations are organising a May Day demonstration in Finsbury Park, May 6th. The speakers include:—Tom Mann (Transport Workers' Federation), Geo. Lansbury (Editor, "The Herald"), W. Mellor (National Guild League), Mr. H. Ewer (National Guild League), W. P. Coates (Railway Clerks' Association), Mrs. Bessie Ward (Shop Assistants' Union), Sylvia Pankhurst (Workers' Suffrage Federation), John Arnall (I.L.P.), W. Carter (N.U.R.), W. P. Watson (A.S.E.), H. C. Charlton (N.U.R.), Frank Smith (ex-L.C.C.), Alex. Gossip (Furnishing Trades Association), V. L. McEntee (Carpenters and Joiners), C. W. Gibson (Workers' Union), H. J. Stenning (I.L.P.), Geo. Belt (London Trades Council), A. Burgess (N.U.R.), E. C. Fairchild (B.S.P.), R. Palmer (Poplar Trades Council), H. H. Elvin (N.U. Clerks), J. G. Butler, Mrs. Despard.

Processions are being organised from the following points:—Camden Town N. London Rly. Station, 2.15; Holloway Prison, 2.45; Clapton Common (East End procession), 1.45; Northumberland Park, Tottenham, 2 p.m.

JUDGE NEIL IN ENGLAND

The following meetings have been finally arranged:—

BIRMINGHAM.
Saturday, April 21st, 3 p.m., W.S.F. Conference on Mothers' Pensions. Speaker: Judge Neil. Saturday, April 21st, 8 p.m., W.S.F. and Labour Church, The Institute, Stirchley, Public Meeting, Judge Neil.
LEICESTER.
Sunday, April 22nd, 6.30 p.m., Joint Meeting W.S.F. and I.L.P. Speaker: Judge Neil. Chair: Mr. John Riley (President Leicester Hosiery Union).
MIDDLESBROUGH.
Monday, April 23rd, 7.30 p.m., Joint Meeting W.S.F. and Middlesbrough W.F.L. Branch, Town Hall, Middlesbrough. Speakers: Judge Neil, "Mothers' Pensions"; Miss Eunice Murray, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst. Chair: Col. Henry Williams.
SHEFFIELD.
Joint Public Meeting with Trades and Labour Council, Temperance Hall, Townhead Street, Thursday, April 26th, 7.30 p.m. Judge Neil on "Mothers' Pensions"; Miss Sylvia Pankhurst. Chair: Councillor Cecil Wilson, J.P.
YORK.
April 24th, 7.30 p.m., Co-operative Hall. Tickets, 1s., 6d., and 3d. Judge Neil on "Mothers' Pensions"; Miss Sylvia Pankhurst.
MERTHYR.
The Rink, April 29th, 2.45 p.m. Joint with I.L.P. Judge Neil on "Mothers' Pensions"; Miss Sylvia Pankhurst.
ABERDARE.
The Grand Theatre, April 29th, 7.30 p.m. Joint with I.L.P. Judge Neil, "Mothers' Pensions"; Miss Sylvia Pankhurst.

Other meetings will take place at Huddersfield, April 23rd; Lees Hall, Canning Town, May 6th.

W.S.F. BRANCHES

ARE YOU AN ACTIVE WORKING MEMBER?

LONDON

Please Address: Branch Business to Miss Lynch; "Dreadnought" Reports to Miss O'Callaghan, 400 Old Ford Road, E.3.

BARKING.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Langford, Ailsa Craig, 97 Essex Road.

BOW.—400 Old Ford Road, E. Hon. Secretary: Miss Stevens. Branch meetings are held every second and fourth Monday. DREADNOUGHT sales week ending April 14th, 1,031; Miss Harriet, 403; Mrs. Holloway, 113; per Miss O'Brien, 112; Miss Hepburn, 96; Miss Smyth, 66; Miss Price, 26; Miss Lynch, 25; Miss Greer, 12; general, 178.

BROMLEY.—53 St. Leonard's Street. Hon. Secs.: Mrs. Lansbury, Mrs. Wood.

CANNING TOWN.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Parsons, 94 Ravenscroft Road.

CENTRAL LONDON.—Hon. Sec.: Miss Casey, 29b Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 104.

ENFIELD AND EDMONTON.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Beavis, 171 Church Street, Lower Edmonton.

HOXTON AND SHOREDITCH.—Hon. Sec.: Miss Beamish, St. Stephen's Shop, 85 Hoxton Street, N.—This shop is open daily for the sale of Socialist, Labour and Feminist literature. Hours, 12 noon to 7 p.m.; Saturdays, 12 noon to 8 p.m. Closed all day Thursdays. If you deal with us you will help the funds.

LEYTON.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Hart, 73 Calderon Road. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 39.

POPLAR.—Hon. Sec.: Miss E. Lagsding, 20 Railway Street. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 132; Clinic, 80; general, 32; Miss A. Zeital, 20.

TIDAL BASIN.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Drake, 49 Crediton Road. DREADNOUGHT sales average 36.

ST. PANCRAS.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Redgrove, B.S.P. Hall, 44 Malden Road, Kentish Town. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 13.

WILLESDEN.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Sheppard, 141 Villiers Road. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 12. Branch meetings, Monday 30th, 7.30 p.m., and alternate Mondays.

PROVINCES

BIRMINGHAM.—Hon. Sec.: Miss A. F. Boden, 10 Sandhurst Road, Moseley.—A conference is to be held in the Priory Rooms, Upper Priory, on Saturday, April 21st, at 3 p.m., to discuss the establishment of "Mothers' Pensions" in this country. Judge Neil will speak. All societies are cordially invited to send delegates (fee 1s. each). Members and friends are asked to attend as visitors. For further particulars write to Conference Secretary, Mrs. J. F. Durant, 176 Maryvale Road, Bournville.

BRADFORD.—Hon. Sec.: Miss McHale, 12 Airedale College Terrace. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 26.

BRIGHOUSE.—Hon. Sec.: Miss Woodhead, Wood View, Shelf, near Halifax.

BRYNMAWR AND NANTYGLO.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Hayward, Coedcae, Garn Fack.

BURNLEY.—Hon. Sec. pro tem.; Mrs. Mortimer Holden, The Nurseries, Accrington.

CHOPWELL.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Bell, 62 Forth Street. Fortnightly meetings are to be held to discuss such books as "Woman and Economics," "Woman and Labour," etc. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 13.

CORNSAY AND QUERBC.—Hon. Sec. pro tem.: Mrs. Winter, 196 High Street. Branch meeting, Monday, at 197 High Street, Cornsay. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 30.

DONCASTER.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Kent, 32 St. Sepulchre Gate.

FERRYHILL.—Hon. Sec.: Miss Ruby Stoddart, 12 Hackworth Street, Dean Bank. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 12.

HUDDERSFIELD.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Key, Bradford Road.

HULL.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Bryan, 91 Derringham Street, Springbank.

LEEDS.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Hunter, 7 Sugdenfold, Armley. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 72.

LEICESTER.—Hon. Sec.: Miss Helen Bakewell, 28 Macdonald Street, Belgrave. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 13.

MANCHESTER.—Hon. Sec.: Miss F. Wassilevski, 18 Broughton Street, N. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 26.

MEDOMSLEY.—Hon. Sec.: Tom Orr, Esq., 6 Derwent Cottages, Durham. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 24.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—Hon. Sec.: Mr. Nicholson, 19 Alexandra Road, North Heaton.

PRUDHOE-ON-TYNE.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Parks, 4 Riding Terrace, Mickley Square. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 8.

PORTSMOUTH.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Clarges, 200 Westfield Road, E. Southsea. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 39.

ROTHERHAM, WAKEFIELD.—Organiser: Miss Stephen, 33 Hopwood Street, Hull.

SHEFFIELD.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Manoin, 98 Gell Street. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 104.

SOUTHAMPTON.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Samuel 33, Mount Street. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 12.

STIRCHLEY.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. M. Henson, 85 Watford Road, King's Norton, Birmingham; Assistant Sec.: Miss Shepley.

YORK.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Hall, 43 Lowther Street.

WORKINGTON.—Hon. Sec.: Mr. Martin Howard, 48 Beeby Street.

SCOTLAND

GLASGOW.—Hon. Sec.: Lachlan Smith, Esq., 126 Bothwell Street.

FUNCTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Sunday, May 27th, 3 p.m., Bow Women's Hall, Annual Conference (1st session).
Sunday, May 27th, 7 p.m., Chandos Hall, Public Meeting.
Monday, May 28th, 3 p.m., Bow Women's Hall, Annual Conference (2nd session).
Monday, May 28th, 7 p.m., Bow Women's Hall, Social.

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GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED

GENERAL FUND.—Miss Isabelle Rae, £1 1s.; Irene, per Mrs. Drake (weekly), £1; Miss H. E. Raisin (monthly), 10s.; Miss Schaub, 5s.; Miss Janet Marden, 2s. 6d.; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lee, 2s. 6d.; Mr. Rout, 1s. COLLECTIONS: Miss Price (two), 6s. 7d.; Profit on Poplar Club, 5s.; Miss Stephen, 4s.; Poplar Women's Hall, 1s. 4d.

DREADNOUGHT FUND.—Teddy the Flower Seller, 6d.

MILK AND GENERAL DISTRESS.—Per Miss Udny, £4 5s. (two months); Mrs. Zangwill, £2; Miss Esther Case, £1 1s.; Miss Mary Law, £1 1s.; Capt. Bennett, £1; Miss Heywood Bright, £1; Mrs. Crichton, 19s. 8d.; per Mrs. Richardson, 15s.; Nurse Hebbes (weekly), 12s.; Mrs. Richmond (fortnightly), 10s.; Nurse Godwin, 10s.; Miss Leila Burroughs (monthly), 10s.; Mrs. Chester, 6s.; Mrs. E. M. Morrison (monthly), 5s.; Miss J. T. Drewry (monthly), 5s.; Miss Margaret Smith, 5s.; Miss Crabb (monthly), 3s. 6d.; Miss Balchin, 1s.; Mrs. Crowle, 1s. COLLECTIONS: Miss E. Lagsding and Mrs. Bertram (Green's Yard), 9s. 9d.; Misses E. Lagsding and L. Barker (Green's Yard), 9s. 7½d.; Miss Mackay (Churn)), 8s. 2½d.; Mrs. Bertram and Miss Barker (Green's Yard), 6s. 8d.; Mothers at Bromley Clinic (monthly), 6s.; Misses K. Lagsding and T. Barker (Cubitt Town), 5s.; Girls at Council School, Sydenham, per Mrs. Vigo, 5s.; Per Mrs. Edwards Kensal Rise Women's Co-op. farthing collection, 4s.

CLOTHES, ETC.—Miss Godwin, Mrs. Buckley, Anon, Miss Parry, Mrs. Cholmeley.

GROCERIES.—Hampstead National Food Fund.

EGGS.—Lady Margaret Sackville.

TWIGS.—Mrs. Sinclair.

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Day nursery from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Doctor's consultation and baby-weighing, Mondays, 2.30 p.m. Mothers and babies can consult Nurse at any time.

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Dental Clinic, May 2nd, 2.15 p.m.

20 Railway Street, Poplar.
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Doctor's consultation and baby-weighing, Wednesdays, 2 p.m.

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Broken men, discharged with insufficient pension, constantly ask our help for their wives and children. The rising price of food is causing grave distress amongst poor families. Help us to provide the milk, nourishment and necessary clothing, without which doctoring is of small avail. Send a subscription to the Treasurer of our Distress Fund, Dr. BARBARA TCHAYKOVSKY, 400 Old Ford Road, E., or a parcel to Miss NORAH SMYTH at the same address.

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